

## **Comments received on the 2014/15 DCUSA Budget**

### **Respondent: Northern Powergrid**

#### **Overall**

In general the budget appears to provide reasonable estimates of the potential costs and we have observations on the specific items highlighted below.

#### **DCUSA Cost Drivers**

##### **Change Proposals and Meetings**

Northern Powergrid notes that whilst there was a significant increase in change proposal in early 2013 over the last 3 years the number of new change proposals has been on average 40 per year. However the budget for meeting costs appears to have been increased markedly, we would ask:

- Are the costs (per meeting) increasing?
- what is being done to manage meeting costs, including the use of Electralink meeting rooms and exploring other options?

##### **TRAS**

Northern Powergrid notes that an allowance of £100k has been made and this is to cover Ofgem's indication that industry should commence procuring a dual fuel TRAS provider and development of TRAS arrangements. The allowance will include all costs associated with the TRAS e.g. meeting costs, legal costs and any additional administration costs. The TRAS project is subject to DCP 201 'Provisions for the Theft Risk Assessment Service (TRAS)' being approved, which envisages the TRAS project costs being incurred by Suppliers only. The costs will only be invoiced if the DCP is approved.

Northern Powergrid would like to have DCUSA assure that the TRAS creation project costs should be funded by Supplier Parties and that this principle should also apply to any future running costs.

##### **General observation**

We note that DCUSA may not bill the entire budget as some costs are only billed if they are incurred e.g. for development projects like the website review and this remains a welcome aspect of DCUSA charging.